

September 9, 2009

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Representative Michael Arcuri (NY-24) announced today that the Ithaca office of the Community Coalition for a Healthy New York and the Partnership for Ontario Inc. have each been awarded \$125,000 Drug Free Communities (DFC) Support Program grants by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in support of their work to reduce drug use among youth in the communities they serve.

"As a former District Attorney, I know that communities receiving DFC grants have lower rates of youth substance abuse and are able to effectively reduce drug use across the board faster," **Arcuri said**. "With this funding, the Community Coalition for a Healthy New York and the Partnership for Ontario Inc. can effectively engage their communities in an effort to combat drug use among our youth and protect the future of our communities by fighting drug abuse early on in life. I look forward to continuing to work with these organizations over the coming years as they continue to save lives and better our communities."

The Coalition for a Healthy New York and the Partnership for Ontario County, Inc. will receive funding from September 30, 2009 through September 29, 2010.

The Coalition for a Healthy New York uses a comprehensive approach to discourage substance abuse by letting youth know that using alcohol, pharmaceuticals, marijuana and/or tobacco is harmful, and that the adults in their lives support healthy drug-free activities.

The Partnership for Ontario County, serving an urban area with a population of 107,000, seeks to establish and strengthen collaboration among partner organizations in support of the community's effort to prevent and reduce substance abuse among youth, and, over time, among adults by confronting the issues in our community that increase the risk of drug abuse, and tailoring solutions to ameliorate the situation.

The DFC program was created by the Drug Free Communities Act of 1997, and was reauthorized by Congress in 2001 and 2006. Since 1998, ONDCP has awarded approximately

1,500 Drug-Free Communities grants to local communities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, Palau, American Samoa and the US Virgin Islands.

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